

24 September 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 24 September 1979

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The Director chaired the meeting.

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Hetu reported briefly on Representative Aspin's press release in today's Washington Post (attached) which urges the Carter administration to tighten procedures used in clearing applicants for the nation's most sensitive jobs. Noting we were forthcoming with all of the details needed by Aspin's subcommittee, Hitz expressed his annoyance at the article's "cheap shot" by Aspin re use of the polygraph. The Director asked May to assess the impact of the subcommittee's report and provide him a report on same. (Action: DDA)

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The Director told Silver he was not able to get in touch with Attorney General Civiletti on Friday as planned to discuss pending decisions (a civil suit against columnist Jack Anderson, litigation against Philip Agee and revocation of Agee's U.S. passport, amendment to the FOI Act, and identities legislation).

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May reported briefly on three events for this week:

(1) A visit by representatives of black colleges and universities to gain a better understanding of the Agency toward career opportunities for young blacks;

(2) A financial planning seminar to be held in the auditorium--e.g., to assist Agency employees in financial planning toward retirement; and

(3) An Industrial Security Conference on Thursday at which the Director is scheduled to appear. [] 25X1 25X1

[] would return from leave tomorrow to assume his duties as DD/CT. He expressed his pleasure and admiration to those with whom he has worked as DD/CT. The Director complimented [] on his fine performance. (U) 25X1 25X1

The Director reported briefly on the Blue Ribbon Panel, chaired by Clark Clifford, which will meet here today to review intelligence aspects of the Soviet brigade in Cuba--to include a review of chronology, collection priorities, and collection capabilities. The Director said he sees the Panel's effort as a precautionary step should things deteriorate in negotiations with the Soviets. The Director instructed that information regarding this panel and its work be kept contained. [] 25X1

Noting that the Cuban situation continues to dominate most of our activities, the Director said he will attend the Senator Cranston lunch group tomorrow, briefing the additional senators on the Soviet brigade in Cuba using material provided previously to six congressional committees. [] 25X1

Recalling a note to himself re a recent meeting at the White House on how the Soviets have involved themselves in Afghanistan, the Director asked Clarke what transpired at the meeting. Clarke explained and noted [] attended the meeting. Stein said several questions were relayed to the DDO for response. [] 25X1 25X1 25X1

[] The Director advised a sharp eye be kept on this situation. [] 25X1

Mr. Carlucci reported briefly on his Chicago trip, noting in his contact with businessmen and Chicago's two main newspapers, there is growing support for improved intelligence capability. He said he was approached by two businessmen who asked what they could do to help. [] 25X1

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Tighter Security Screening Urged

Associated Press

Citing recent gaps in U.S. security, a House intelligence subcommittee yesterday urged the Carter administration to tighten procedures for clearing applicants for the nation's most sensitive jobs.

"The procedures used are weak," said Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wis.), chairman of the House intelligence oversight subcommittee. "We find a patchwork quilt that indicates a lack of consistency."

The panel cited a recent case in which a low-level Central Intelligence Agency employee obtained and sold a top-secret manual on the operation of a U.S. spy satellite.

Aspin said the wide differences in how the government's security-related agencies review applicants sometimes leads to "a person [getting] a clearance from one agency while he would be denied the same clearance by another."

The subcommittee's report noted that agencies seek different information during background investigations and have varying policies on the use of polygraph, or lie-detector, tests.

The report said that while the CIA uses polygraph tests across the board in screening job applicants, the intelligence-monitoring National Security Agency requires them only for civilian applicants and the State and Defense departments do not use them at all.

The value of polygraph tests are widely debated by experts. However, the subcommittee's report noted that the tests are a factor in refusing clearance to 75 percent of those the CIA turns down and 90 percent of those rejected by the NSA.

The subcommittee's report recommended that common criteria be developed on the agencies' use of polygraph tests. It also proposed that a single agency be set up to handle security background investigations.